

Texas Providers Webinar Highlights – December 14, 2021

Read below for topics covered or view the [full recording](#) for detailed information.

COVID-19 Vaccine: Updates

- On December 9th, federal authorities updated their vaccination recommendations to include a **single booster dose for 16-year and 17-year-olds at least 6 months after completing their primary Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination series**. The CDC is strengthening its booster dose recommendations and **encouraging everyone 16 years and older to receive a booster shot**. Providers may now begin administering booster doses to those who meet that criteria. For more information, please review DSHS' December 10th email, titled "Updates on Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters, Ordering" or refer to this [CDC media statement on Expanded Booster Recommendations](#).
- [Pfizer 1170 COVID-19 vaccine \(purple cap\)](#) for ages 12 years and older will be available for ordering in VAOS through Tuesday, December 21st. **Beginning Thursday, December 23rd, the new [Pfizer 300 COVID-19 vaccine \(gray cap\)](#) will become available for ordering in VAOS, to replace Pfizer 1170**. Providers are encouraged to continue to use the purple cap vaccine they have on hand. To avoid errors while both products are in circulation, **please do not use the gray cap and purple cap vaccines at the same time**. For more information detailing the availability of Pfizer COVID-19 gray cap vaccine, please refer to DSHS' December 10th email, titled "Updates on Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters, Ordering."

COVID-19 Vaccine: Transitioning Through COVID-19 Vaccine

- During the webinar, DSHS subject matter experts discussed several major COVID-19 vaccine milestones, including the COVID-19 vaccine launch, COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer milestones, age expansions, the authorization of the additional dose, and the authorization of the booster dose. For more details, providers may watch the [webinar recording](#) or review the [webinar presentation slides](#).

COVID-19 Variants

- Chief State Epidemiologist Dr. Jennifer Shuford joined the webinar to discuss the spread of the COVID-19 Omicron variant, including what we know and what remains to be learned about this recent variant. She also analyzed and interpreted trends in new cases and hospitalizations over the past year. For more information, access the webinar materials [here](#).

Where We Go From Here

- To maintain momentum in vaccinating Texans against COVID-19, providers are encouraged to make the vaccine as accessible to their clients as possible, develop strong client relationships, diversify COVID-19 vaccine supply by having multiple presentations on hand, host clinics, and follow administering best practices.
- All TVFC and ASN providers are encouraged to enroll in the COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Program to expand access to the COVID-19 vaccine to clients and thus increase the vaccination rate in Texas. For more information on enrolling in the COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Program, visit the [Vaccination Provider Enrollment](#) page on the DSHS Immunizations website.

Provider Resources:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Management Resources \(training and support materials\)](#)
- [ImmTrac2 User Training Site](#)
- [ImmTrac2 Forms and Documents](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Enrollment Information](#)
- [CDC Clinical Considerations for or Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- DSHS Provider Help Desk: (833) 832-7068, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; Email: COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov

Session Live Q&A:

- Is there an extension for COVID-19 vaccine scheduled to expire on December 21st, 2021?
- Do you anticipate annual boosters will be recommended based on which variant of COVID-19 is circulating at the time, similar to the flu?
- What is the severity of disease we are seeing in cases of the Omicron variant in the United States?
- What is the smallest amount of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine we can order in the Vaccine Allocation & Ordering System?
- Should I open a vial of COVID-19 vaccine just to administer the vaccine to one client?

